

WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 26th JULY 2012 AT 7:00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Brandon (The Mayor); C Price; C Briton; A Denison;
A Gibson; S Davies; J Osman; H Siggs; D Anderson; T Robbins;
G Wilson; N Kennedy. J North; D Unwin.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: F White, RFO S Luck.
Mace-Bearer: J Rood; Chaplain: A Wheeler.
Sgt J Muers, PC D Pearson.
1 member of the press, 5 members of the public.

12/109C APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllrs: T Butt Philip (Deputy Mayor); J Mitchell.
Cllrs: Unwin, North, Denison, Osman, Siggs, would arrive late, following an urgent District Council meeting.

12/110C DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS None. See 12/112Ciii.

12/111C MINUTES of meetings of the City Council held on 28th June 2012 were proposed, seconded accepted and signed.

12/112C MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- i. Mrs B Siddons asked for a correction to the minutes of the City Centre Management Committee meeting where she had spoken about signage.
- ii. Mr Loveday: Spoke about Wells Festival of Literature 2012 12th – 20th October.
- iii. Mrs Sheena Loveday: Spoke about Wells Art Contemporary competition at the Museum in October and answered questions. (Cllr Kennedy declared a personal interest as Trustee of the Museum).
- iv. Mr George Osbourne: “buzzfrom” social and economic networking to support of local businesses.
(Cllrs: Unwin, North, Denison, Osman, Siggs arrived.)
- v. Mr R Hudsmith spoke about the Localism Act 2012, commended the RFO, the Mayor and the Wells in Bloom team for coping under current financial pressures and asked questions about reduced funding from MDC and SCC. Cllrs North and Osman contributed some answers.

12/113C REPORT FROM THE POLICE

Sgt Muers thanked everyone who had helped with the Olympic Torch, HMS Somerset and Freedom award events; there had been no problems at all. He spoke about the new DPP Order now in place and the new parking enforcement arrangements. He introduced PC Darren Pearson who will be standing in for PC Page for the foreseeable future. PC Pearson mentioned the regrettable damage to the Swans of Wells; he answered questions regarding local patrols.

12/114C MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. The Mayor thanked all councillors who had supported the Freedom awards event and everyone who had helped with the catering and other support. Dr Bobby Anderson was particularly thanked for all her hard work in producing the parchment scrolls.
Both the new Freeman had expressed to the Mayor how impressed they were with the whole event; several letters of thanks had been received all saying how impressed they were with how Wells does these events.
- ii. The Mayor had attended a most interesting event yesterday with the

Rifles; she enquired regarding their provisional booking for September but they will be on constant alert and will be unable to visit Wells; they hope to come sometime next year.

- iii. The Mayor reminded councillors please not to speak repeatedly on agenda items unless a new point has been made.

Cllr North asked that Cllr Gibson and the Wells in Bloom team also be thanked for a very successful Open Gardens event.

Cllr Kennedy thanked The Mayor, Town Clerk and RFO for all their work on the Freedom award event.

12/115C CALENDAR OF COUNCIL MINUTES

To approve the calendar of Council meetings to May 2013: Resolved.

12/116C MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on held on 12th July 2012 were proposed, seconded and accepted.

The Chairman reported a clear annual return has been received from the External Auditor; the RFO and the Chairman were thanked for all their hard work.

The Chairman announced the “soft” launch of the new website will be on 20th August.

12/117C CODE OF CONDUCT (Localism Act 2011 s27)

- i. To adopt a Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct from the model prepared by the Somerset Monitoring Officers had been circulated to all members, this was proposed and seconded, a vote was taken and the Code was unanimously adopted.

- ii. To adopt new Standing Order 7.

Standing Order 7, as circulated with the new Code of Conduct, was proposed and seconded, a vote was taken and Standing Order 7 was unanimously adopted.

12/118C MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on held on 21st June and 5th July 2012 were proposed, seconded and accepted.

The Chairman advised that during August there will be no meetings, planning matters will be dealt with under delegated powers; if members have comments on any applications please could they inform the office.

12/119C MINUTES OF THE ARCHIVES AND CIVIC ASSETS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on held on 21st June 2012 were proposed, seconded and accepted.

12/120C MINUTES OF THE CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on held on 5th July 2012 were proposed, seconded and accepted. Minute 12/31CC to be amended at the next committee meeting.

The Chairman drew members’ attention to the Town Hall open Day during the Heritage Weekend in September.

12/121C REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- i. MDC Cllr Unwin spoke about the Business Forum and about the grass-cutting contract.
- ii. Cllr North proposed support for a MDC motion in support of Mendip Dairy Farmers. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the City Council write to MDC adding its support to this motion (details to be supplied by Cllr North) Cllrs: Kennedy, Price and Briton abstained.

- iii. Cllr Davies:
 - a. MDC Standards Committee has been abolished under the Localism Act. The former Independent Chairman is now the Independent Adviser to the MDC Monitoring Officer.
 - b. Sports Centre: The Blue School now has academy status; the Sports Centre will become a limited company in September; the City Council is the only remaining body giving grant funding to the Sports Centre. The situation was referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to look into in September.
 - c. MYHIGH: A draft website has been prepared, target launch date: 9th August.
- iv. Carnival Committee Cllr Robbins reported the committee is working well and is engaging with others in the community.

12/122C ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr Gibson:

- i. thanked the whole Wells in Bloom team for all their work on the Open Gardens event and particularly Cllrs North, Price and Anderson.
- ii. reported some street cleaning matters.
- iii. enquired about access to SCC grant funding.

12/123C DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at **7pm on Thursday 27th September 2012.**

The Mayor wished everyone a very good summer break and closed the meeting.